

**ENDORISING INNOVATIVE POLICIES TO SUCCESSFULLY END CHRONIC
HOMELESSNESS ACROSS THE NATION**

WHEREAS, mayors are committed to ending chronic homelessness in our nation's cities; and

WHEREAS, chronically homeless individuals, those with the most persistent forms of homelessness, are afflicted not only by poverty but also by severe conditions such as mental illness and substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, mayors and cities are on the front lines of the response to chronic homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the National Partnership has brought together 20 federal agencies, 53 governors of states and territories, and over 215 mayors in the same national strategy to respond to chronic homelessness ; and

WHEREAS, in order for persons experiencing chronic homelessness to succeed in their housing, supportive services are necessary to mitigate health, substance abuse, and mental health problems; and

WHEREAS, research compiled by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness suggests that supportive housing models to end chronic homelessness are highly effective and that the cost of providing supportive housing is substantially offset by savings in the most expensive systems of community care including hospitalizations, jails, and other correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, these supportive strategies improve the quality of life for both the individuals being housed and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, ending chronic homelessness requires collaboration and coordination at all levels of government, together with community institutions, businesses, and faith-based organizations, to determine how best to implement prevention and intervention strategies; and

WHEREAS, over 215 cities have created jurisdictionally-based 10-Year Plans to end chronic homelessness; and

WHEREAS, members of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness should further unify around the vision of ending chronic homelessness by aligning each agency's program and funding priorities to support this vision;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the increased investment in proven strategies that end chronic homelessness, such as permanent housing with supportive services; and the preservation/restoration of existing federal programs that support homeless services and ten year plans, such as CDBG and CSBG; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors commends and urges Congress to fund the proposed 7.5 % increase in spending on targeted homeless assistance across various federal departments in the Administration's Fiscal Year 2007 budget, including the continued commitment of \$200 million for the Samaritan Initiative at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), part of an overall 13% increase in HUD's homeless funding request; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors affirms the value of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness and asks the Interagency Council to develop concrete tools and to seek new funding to help implement ten year plans in partnership with mayors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors continues to endorse and urges Congress to act on legislation that creates new funding sources for supportive services for the homeless, such as the Services for Ending Long-term Homelessness Act as proposed in the Health and Human Services Budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to re-authorize the McKinney-Vento Act with provisions for regulatory relief that would allow existing federal funds appropriated through the McKinney-Vento Act to be fully expended and more efficiently utilized each budget year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors, having endorsed over 215 plans to end homelessness across the country in support of the Bush Administration's initiative to end chronic homelessness in ten years, requests that Congress, also through the re-authorization of the McKinney-Vento Act, fund an innovative grants program that would provide demonstration grants to communities across the nation implementing ten-year plans to end homelessness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to establish a caucus on homelessness to help focus attention on the Federal level on this urgent issue.